

Message Text

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61
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FOLLOWING REPEAT VALLETTA 1076 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN LONDON PARIS
ROME TRIPOLI EC BRUSSELS NATO DIA USCINCEUR USDOCOSOUTH 20 SEP 76.

QUOTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VALLETTA 1076

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, MT
SUBJ: MINTOFF WINS MALTESE ELECTION

REF: VALLETTA 1059

1. INCOMPLETE RETURNS FROM THE SEPTEMBER 17-18 MALTESE
ELECTION INDICATE THAT PRIME MINISTER MINTOFF'S MALTA
LABOR PARTY HAS WON A CLOSE, BUT DECISIVE VICTORY OVER
THE OPPOSITION NATIONALIST PARTY.

2. THE FINAL TOTAL POPULAR VOTE IS EXPECTED TO BE
APPROXIMATELY 52 PERCENT FOR LABOR AND 48 PERCENT
NATIONALIST. UNDER MALTA'S PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION
SYSTEM, THIS WILL TRANSLATE INTO 34 LABOR SEATS AND 31
NATIONALIST SEATS IN THE NEW PARLIAMENT. GIVEN MINTOFF'S
DYNAMIC LEADERSHIP QUALITIES, AND THE TRADITION IN
MALTA OF UNWAVERING PARTY LOYALTY IN PARLIAMENTARY VOTES,
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SUCH A THREE-SEAT MAJORITY WILL BE MUCH MORE THAN

ADEQUATE FOR THE CONTINUANCE OF A STRONG LABOR GOVERNMENT
DURING THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

3. COMMENT: THERE WAS AN EXTRAORDINARILY LARGE TURNOUT
AT THE POLLS, WITH SOME 95 PERCENT OF THE ELIGIBLE
VOTERS CASTING THEIR BALLOTS, AND THE ELECTION WAS
CARRIED OUT IN APPARENT FAIRNESS AND WITHOUT MAJOR
DISTURBANCES OR VIOLENCE BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES. THE
LABORITES ARE ALREADY CELEBRATING, EVEN THOUGH THE
FINAL RESULTS INDICATING WHICH CANDIDATES HAVE BEEN
ELECTED MAY NOT BE KNOWN FOR SEVERAL DAYS. IT WAS CLOSE,
BUT IN THE SHOWDOWN, MINTOFF CLEARLY BESTED GIORGIO BORG
OLIVIER AND THE NATIONALISTS IN WHAT MUST BE CONSIDERED
A PERSONAL TRIUMPH FOR HIM. SMITH
UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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